

KAMEI -- 10/662,421
Client/Matter: 008312-0305985

REMARKS

Claims 14-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-13 are cancelled and claims 14-21 are newly added. No new matter is added. Support for the newly added claims may be found in Figs. 1-4 and the specification on page 7, line 10 through page 14, line 18. Reconsideration in view of the above-identified new claims and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6 were objected to for minor informalities. Claims 5 and 6 are cancelled. Accordingly, the grounds for the objection is now moot.

Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over US Patent No. 6,033,077 to Iwase in view of US Patent No. 6,394,608 to Shiraishi et al. ("Shiraishi"). Claims 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Iwase in view of Shiraishi and further in view of US Patent No. 5,327,270 to Miyatake. Claims 3 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Iwase in view of Shiraishi and further in view of US Patent No. 6,280,036 to Suzuki and US Patent No. 6,654,168 to Borrelli et al. ("Borrelli"). Claim 12 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Iwase in view of Shiraishi and further in view of Borrelli. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-13 are cancelled. Accordingly, the grounds for the rejections are now moot.

Newly added claims 14-21 are allowable over Iwase, Shiraishi, Miyatake, Suzuki, Borrelli and combination of these references. Each of the cited references fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed arrangement of components in the optical engine, which together formed a sealed space, as set forth in independent claims 14 and 18. In particular, the cited references do not disclose the housing of the optical engine is configured to define a space sealed up from the outside by arranging an incident surface of the lens, an outgoing surface of the projection lens and the rear surfaces of the plurality of reflection type liquid crystal elements so as to be exposed to the outside. The plurality of light separation elements, the plurality of reflection polarizing plates and the combining prism are positioned inside the housing. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Iwase, Shiraishi, Miyatake, Suzuki, and/or Borrelli does not render obvious the subject matter of newly added claims 14 and 18. Claims 14 and 18 are allowable over these references. Claims 15-17 depend from claim 14 and claims 19-21 depend from claim 18 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define subject matter, which is patentable over the prior art of record. Should any issues require further resolution, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss and resolve the issues. Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 4, 2005
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